

Political Science 3092
Professor Sven Steinmo
Comparative Political Economy
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00-1:50pm

Office Hours: Tu. 2-5 ; Wed. 3-4:30;
steinmo@colorado.edu

WEB ADDRESS: [\[L\]](#)
[\[SEP\]](#)

With the rise of the new millennia things looked pretty good for America and her democratic neighbors. The Soviet Union (and more broadly, Communism as an ideology) had been defeated and no reasonable alternative to democratic capitalism stood in opposition to liberal capitalist democracies. As Francis Fukuyama had earlier argued, it looked like we may have reached “The End of History.”

Despite the early euphoria, however, advanced industrial democracies today find themselves confronted with a variety of difficulties. Some of the most difficult issues include: Globalization and the 'outsourcing' of good jobs; Aging populations and the challenge to finance social security systems; Declining public confidence in the government's ability to solve public problems; Increasing inequality inside societies and between societies; and increasing social, political, and cultural diversity within democratic states. It is more than ironic that we find ourselves in an era of increased prosperity and dominance over the world *and* an era of increased insecurity and declining confidence about the future.

The course will be organized around how “Globalization” has been shaped by and is challenging democracy in the world today. As the world moves into 21st century, all capitalist countries will be challenged in different ways to respond to the forces of internationalization. While no one can predict how these systems will respond, we hope to gain some understanding of where they stand vis a vis these global forces. [\[L\]](#)
[\[SEP\]](#)

In this course we will compare the political and economic systems of several advanced capitalist states in order to better understand the issues and possibilities facing these countries. We will focus on three advanced democratic countries (Japan, Sweden, and the United States) but our focus will not be exclusive to these states. A basic theme of the course is that there are a variety of ways to organize a democratic polity and a variety of ways to organize a capitalist economy. Though the American system is clearly the dominant model in the world today, it is interesting and important to understand how and why other countries are organized differently. As the world enters the new millennium these various systems will be challenged in different ways to respond to the forces of internationalization. While no one can predict how these systems will respond, we hope to gain some understanding of where they stand vis a vis these global forces.

We open the course with an analysis of the rise of “free” markets and the co-evolution capitalism, democracy and market ideas. Contrary to much current rhetoric, we will see that markets have always needed strong states at the same time that successful societies need strong markets.

Next we will examine the ways in which “globalization” is challenging three quite different capitalist democracies (Sweden, Japan and the United States). We will explore how each of

Weekly Schedule:

Week 1 ... (Aug. 28 -) Introductions and Orientation

(August 30 – Sept 1)

The Co-Evolution of Democracy and Capitalism

Readings:

Dani Rodrik: Introduction and Chapters 1 + 2 (pp. ix - 46).

Week 2 (Sept 4 - 8)

The Growth of Markets and Market Ideology ^[SEP]

Readings:

Rodrik: Chapters 3 and 4, (pp. 47-89)

Week 3 (Sept. 11 + 13) -

Globalization and its Discontents.

Readings:

Rodrik: Chapters 5 and 6 (pp.89 -134)

Week 4 (Sept. 18 – 22)

Capitalism – Democracy and The End of History?

Readings:

Francis Fukuyama: *The End of History* ^[SEP]?

https://www.embl.de/aboutus/science_society/discussion/discussion_2006/ref1-22june06.pdf

Week 5 (Sept. 25-29)

The Many Varieties of Capitalism

Readings:

Peter Hall and David Soskice, *Introduction to the Varieties of Capitalism*, pp. 1-62

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/government/whosWho/Academic%20profiles/dwsoskice@lse.ac.uk/Hall-Soskice-Intro-VoC-2001.pdf>

Week 6 (Oct. 4 + 6) NOTE: no class meeting Monday, October 2

Capitalism and Democracy as Evolution

Readings:

Steinmo, Chapter 1, (pp.1-27)

Week 7 (Oct. 9-13)

No readings

- **Summing up: Preparing for Mid-term**
- **October 13 -- In Class Mid-term Exam**

Week 8 (Oct. 23-27)

Sweden: The Evolution of a Bumble-Bee

Readings:

Steinmo Chapter 2 (pp. 27- 75)

Week 9 (Oct. 30 - Nov. 3)

The Japanese Hybrid

Readings:

Steinmo Chapter 3 (pp. 75 - 127)

Week 10 (Nov. 6 - 10)

The United States: Strong Nation -Weak State

Readings:

Steinmo, Chapter 4, (pp. 128 - 178)

Week 11 (Nov. 13 - 15)

Can America Compete?

Readings:

Alec Ross: *Industries of the Future* -- Introduction and Chapter 1 (pp. 1 - 47)

- *No Class Friday, November 17 (have a good break)*

SEP: Week 12, *THANKSGIVING BREAK*

Week 13 (Nov. 27 – December 1)

Globalization and the Developing World SEP:

Readings:

Rodrik: Chapters 7 and 8 (pp. 135 – 184)

SEP: Week 14 (Dec. 4 - 8)

Can Global Institutions Fix This?

Readings:

Rodrik: Chapter 9-10 (pp. 184 – 233)

Essays due in class - or before (December 8)

Week 15 (Dec. 11 - 15)

Sane Globalization??

Readings:

Rodrik: Chapters 10 and 11 (pp, 233 – 284)

Final Exam: Monday, Dec. 18 ---- 1:30 p.m.– 4:00 p.m.

Final points:

Accommodation for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website \(www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students\)](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website and discuss your needs with your professor.

Religious Holidays

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, *{{insert your procedures here}}* See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

Classroom Behavior

Faculty and students should be aware of the campus [Classroom and Course-Related Behavior policy](#) which describes examples of unacceptable classroom behavior and provides information on how to handle such circumstances should they arise. Faculty are encouraged to address the issue of classroom behavior in the syllabus, and to understand their [professional rights and duties](#).

Classroom behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. CU's Sexual Misconduct Policy prohibits sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking or related retaliation. CU Boulder's

Discrimination and Harassment Policy prohibits discrimination, harassment or related retaliation based on race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct under either policy should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127. Information about the OIEC, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation can be found at the [OIEC website](#).

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to [the academic integrity policy](#). Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, resubmission, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code Council as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).